

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 11, 2021



First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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A ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

In this time of uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, we hope that this service assures everyone of the certainty of God's love and provides hope for all through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

While we worship virtually we use a Service of the Word, knowing that when the virus has passed we will join each other once again at the Table of the Lord.

As it has been a blessing to us to provide this service, we hope it is a blessing to you to receive it.

We'd love to hear from you. Let us know if our services and bulletins are beneficial to you and your weekly devotions.

Worship Leaders:

Lisa Stephens, Homilist
Deacon Peter Slingerland
Eric Hepp, Organist
Nancy Slingerland
Kurt Bastain
Carol Reichert



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ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

We Prepare for the Word of God

Prelude

Prelude in Classic Style

Gordon Young

Welcome

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain of tri-um-phant glad-ness!
2 'Tis the spring of souls to-day: Christ has burst his pris-on,
3 Now the queen of sea-sons, bright with the day of splen-dor,
4 For to-day a-mong the twelve Christ ap-peared, be-stow-ing
5 Al-le-lu-ia! Now we cry to our King im-mor-tal,



God has brought his Is-ra-el in-to joy from sad-ness,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris-en;
with the roy-al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren-der;
his deep peace, which ev-er-more pass-es hu-man know-ing.
who, tri-um-phant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark por-tal.



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit-ter yoke Ja-cob's sons and daugh-ters,
all the win-ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly-ing
comes to glad-den faith-ful hearts which with true af-fec-tion
Neith-er could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por-tal,
Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain of tri-um-phant glad-ness!



led them with un-moist-ened foot through the Red Sea wa-ters.
from his light, to whom is giv'n laud and praise un-dy-ing.
wel-come in un-wea-ried strain Je-sus' res-ur-rec-tion!
nor the watch-ers, nor the seal, hold him as a mor-tal.
God has brought his Is-ra-el in-to joy from sad-ness!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Psalm: 133

- ¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!
- ²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**
- ³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

Second Reading: 1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Gospel: John 20:19-31

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th Chapter.

Glory to you O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ,

Hymn of the Day

O Sons and Daughters of the King



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King,
2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,
3 An an - gel clad in white they see,
4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear;
whom heav'n - ly hosts in glo - ry sing, to - day the
the faith - ful wom - en went their way to seek the
who sits and speaks un - to the three, "Your Lord will
a - mong them came their mas - ter dear, and said, "My
grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!
tomb where Je - sus lay, Al - le - lu - ia!
go to Gal - i - lee," Al - le - lu - ia!
peace be with you here." Al - le - lu - ia!

After stanza 9:
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 When Thomas first the tidings heard, 7 No longer Thomas then denied;
that they had seen the risen Lord, he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
he doubted the disciples' word. "You are my Lord and God!" he cried.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 "My pierced side, O Thomas, see, 8 How blest are they who have not seen,
and look upon my hands, my feet; and yet whose faith has constant been,
not faithless, but believing be." Alleluia! for they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

9 On this most holy day of days,
be laud and jubilee and praise:
to God your hearts and voices raise.
Alleluia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: O FILII ET FILIAE, French, 15th cent.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith - Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others. Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Other intercessions are offered.

You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy. Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Peace

The Peace of the LORD be with you always.
And also with you.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior has taught us, so we pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever.**

Amen

We are Blessed and Sent

Blessing

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



Sending Hymn

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's
2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst, but Christ their le - gions
3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, he ris - es glo - rious
4 He broke the age - bound chains of hell; the bars from heav'n's high
5 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed you, from death's sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Symphonia Sirenum*, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909
Music: VICTORY, Giovanni P. da Palestrina, 1525–1594, adapt.

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Trumpet Voluntary

Gordon Young